

# EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

A SPECIAL TRIBUTE TO RUTH LARABEE ON THE OCCASION OF HER RETIREMENT

**HON. PAUL E. GILLMOR**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 7, 2004*

Mr. GILLMOR. Mr. Speaker, it is my great pleasure to pay special tribute to Mrs. Ruth Larabee, upon her retirement from her position as the Director of the Wood County Department of Job and Family Services in Bowling Green, Ohio.

Ruth Larabee grew up in the small community of Landeck, Ohio, in Allen County where the leadership skills which have served her well over the years were instilled at an early age. Ruth graduated from Notre Dame College in South Euclid, Ohio with majors in biology and physical science. Upon graduation, Ruth began her career of serving others by teaching Junior High School. When Ruth became a mother of six, she stopped teaching so that she could dedicate all her time and resources to raising her children.

Mr. Speaker, as Ruth's children grew; she accepted a position with the WSOS Head Start Administration. It was in this capacity that she embarked on a career of compassion, always wanting to assist those less fortunate.

Ruth accepted her current position as Director of the Wood County Department of Job and Family Services in 1987, where she has provided constant leadership. Drawing upon her past experiences, she has brought stability and calm to an agency which has seen tremendous change. Despite shifts in public policy brought on by welfare reform, demands for increased services for children and the growing needs of the unemployed, Ruth has continued to be a steadfast leader.

As Director of the Wood County Job and Family Services, Ruth has displayed great leadership by effectively communicating the mission at hand and adapting to the ever changing world around her. Through her drive and leadership, Ruth has worked tirelessly to better the life of abused children, people in need of public housing, the elderly, and those desperately seeking employment. Through her 17 years of distinguished service to the residents of Wood County, Ruth leaves behind the legacy of an Agency inspired by dedication and compassion.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in paying special tribute to Mrs. Ruth Larabee. Our communities are served well by having such honorable and giving citizens, like Ruth, who care about their well being and stability. We wish Ruth and her family all the best as we pay tribute to one of Ohio's finest citizens.

HONORING THE BAY SPECIAL CARE HOSPITAL

**HON. DALE E. KILDEE**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 7, 2004*

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise before you today to honor the faculty and staff of Bay Special Care Hospital of Bay City, Michigan, for providing 10 years of superior medical care to patients requiring extended care management. On July 15, 2004, the hospital, along with the community, will commemorate this special occasion.

Bay Special Care Hospital, a McLaren health service, opened in 1994, and is the first of its kind in Northeastern Michigan. The mission of Bay Special Care is to provide extended care to patients with complex medical needs and require a 25-day or longer stay. The hospital is staffed with a team of highly skilled healthcare professionals, who have committed themselves to providing each patient with intensive personalized care.

Bay Special Care has consistently received high marks for its service from the Michigan Department of Consumer and Industry Services and most importantly from the patients they serve. I commend these men and women for their dedication to detail and commitment to sustaining life.

Mr. Speaker, it is indeed an honor and a pleasure for me to have this opportunity to recognize this outstanding group of medical professionals. Many families have benefited from their care and services. The staff considers it their duty and privilege to protect and defend human dignity and the quality of life for their patients. I am grateful for Bay Special Care's commitment to go beyond the ordinary when providing healthcare services. I ask my colleagues in the 108th Congress to please join me in paying tribute to the Bay Special Care Hospital for 10 years of outstanding service to the community.

INTRODUCTORY STATEMENT FOR H.R. 4768, VETERANS MEDICAL FACILITIES MANAGEMENT ACT OF 2004

**HON. ROB SIMMONS**

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 7, 2004*

Mr. SIMMONS. Mr. Speaker, I am introducing H.R. 4768, the Veterans Medical Facilities Management Act of 2004. This legislation will help address needs in the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) to modernize health care facilities, make better use of VA's existing portfolio of properties and dispose of unneeded properties over the next several years.

In legislation I introduced last year that was included in Public Law (P.L.) 108-170, the

Veterans Health Care, Capital Asset, and Business Improvement Act of 2003, a three-year program of delegated authorizations was established to allow the Secretary to update, improve, establish, restore or replace major VA health care facilities. Congress delegated authority to the Secretary to approve individual facility projects based on recommendations of an independent capital investments board and on criteria that places a premium on projects to protect patient safety and privacy; improve seismic protection; provide barrier-free accommodations; and improve VA patient care facilities in specialized areas of concern.

Many VA community based clinics operate in leased facilities. P.L. 108-170 did not provide the Secretary any new authority concerning execution of major medical facility leases. The Department has identified the need for authorization or renewal of major medical facility leases under title 38, United States Code, section 8104(a)(2) at a cost of approximately \$24 million in fiscal year 2005. This legislation would authorize leases in the Department's recommended locations as follows:

<i>Site</i>	<i>Annual lease cost</i>
Wilmington, North Carolina Outpatient Clinic ....	\$1,320,000
Greenville, North Carolina Outpatient Clinic .....	1,220,000
Norfolk, Virginia Outpatient Clinic .....	1,250,000
Summerfield, Florida Marion County Outpatient Clinic .....	1,230,000
Knoxville, Tennessee Outpatient Clinic .....	850,000
Toledo, Ohio Outpatient Clinic .....	1,200,000
Crown Point, Indiana Outpatient Clinic .....	850,000
Fort Worth, Texas Tarrant County Outpatient Clinic .....	3,900,000
Plano, Texas Collin County Outpatient Clinic .....	3,300,000
San Antonio, Texas Northeast Central Bexar County Outpatient Clinic .....	1,400,000
Corpus Christi, Texas Outpatient Clinic .....	1,200,000
Harlington, Texas Outpatient Clinic .....	650,000
Denver, Colorado Health Administration Center ...	1,950,000
Oakland, California Outpatient Clinic .....	1,700,000
San Diego, California North County Outpatient Clinic .....	1,300,000
San Diego, California South County Outpatient Clinic .....	1,100,000

This bill would also provide that the Department may enter into a long-term lease of up to 75 years for land to construct a new medical facility on the Fitzsimons Campus of the University of Colorado, in Aurora, Colorado. It is anticipated that this new VA facility will be a significant shared facility with the University. The extended lease authority will enable all parties to the relationship to obtain a higher level of confidence in planning and constructing an important health care facility for veterans throughout the intermountain west.

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

Mr. Speaker, this legislation would facilitate the Secretary's authority to transfer unneeded real property currently in VA's portfolio and under the exclusive jurisdiction of the Secretary. The bill would require fair market value for any such transfers, except when transferred to a provider of homeless veterans services receiving a grant under section 2011 of title 38, United States Code.

This bill would also repeal the defunct Nursing Home Revolving Fund, in section 8116 of title 38, United States Code. It would establish a new fund to be known as the Capital Asset Fund, to help defray VA's cost of transferring real property, including demolition, environmental restoration, maintenance, repair, historic preservation and administrative expenses.

VA controls the fourth-largest inventory of owned, leased, and operated federal real property. It is estimated that more than half of VA's facilities are over 50 years old. Many date from the 19th century and many more were constructed in the late 1940s and early 1950s. A large number of properties are listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Given this rich array of heritage assets, H.R. 4768 would also allow the Secretary to enter into partnerships or agreements with public or private entities dedicated to historic preservation and to use resources from the Capital Asset Fund to facilitate the transfer, leasing or adaptive use of these properties. The bill requires a series of reports, beginning with a complete inventory of historic properties, followed up with an annual update of the status of each property for two subsequent reporting cycles.

The bill would require in the Department's annual budget submission inclusion of information on each proposed and completed transfer. The Department also would report to Congress the annual deposits and expenditures from the Fund.

This bill includes a provision to permit the construction of surface parking when incidental to an authorized major medical facility construction project. Also, the bill would provide the Secretary additional flexibility in using funds to develop advanced planning for major construction projects previously authorized by law.

VA major medical facility projects are already exempt under section 8166(a) of title 38, United States Code, from State and local laws relating to building codes, permits, and inspections unless the Secretary consents to participate in such state and local regulation. The bill would exempt VA from State and local land use (zoning) laws.

Mr. Speaker, I trust that my colleagues will agree with me that this is a bill worthy of their support. I strongly urge my colleagues to support this bill and help enact it as a high priority to assist the Department of Veterans Affairs with its capital asset needs.

#### RECOGNIZING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF GLORIA ANZALDÚA

**HON. HILDA L. SOLIS**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 7, 2004*

Ms. SOLIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the life and legacy of Gloria Anzaldúa, an

internationally renowned scholar and activist who recently passed away.

A highly talented and versatile writer, Gloria Anzaldúa is recognized for representing the finest in the Chicano/Latino literature. She skillfully expressed her thoughts and feelings in a variety of genres including poetry, essays, children's books, and narratives. She is best known for her 1987 hybrid collection of poetry and prose titled *Borderlands/La Frontera: The New Mestiza*. This volume was a best seller and was listed among the 100 Best Books of the Century by the Hungry Mind Review and *Utne Reader*. Her other published works include *This Bridge Called My Back* (1981), *Making Face, Making Soul* (1990), *Prietita and the Ghost Woman* (1995), and *This Bridge We Call Home* (2002).

Gloria Anzaldúa was celebrated by some of the most well respected publishing and educational institutions. Her awards include the Before Columbus Foundation American Book Award, Lambda Lesbian Small Book Press Award, National Endowment for the Arts Fiction Award, and the American Studies Association Achievement Award.

As one of the first openly lesbian Chicana authors, Anzaldúa played a major role in redefining contemporary Chicano/a and gay/lesbian identities through her written work. A pioneer in developing an inclusive feminist movement, she won the hearts of countless readers from all walks of life and inspired many to become activists in their communities.

Gloria Anzaldúa passed away on May 15, 2004, at the age of 61. Her mother, Amalia, her sister, Hilda, and two brothers, Urbano and Oscar, survive her. Although she will be greatly missed, our nation will always remember her illustrious professional career. Her powerful vision will be embraced and cherished by future generations of activists, readers, and leaders from all walks of life.

#### HONORING THE CHICAGO HISTORICAL SOCIETY ON THE FOURTH OF JULY

**HON. RAHM EMANUEL**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 7, 2004*

Mr. EMANUEL. Mr. Speaker, today it is my privilege to recognize the contributions of the Chicago Historical Society toward preserving our glorious heritage and the legacy of great Chicagoans, on the occasion of its 45th Annual 4th of July Celebration. America has come a long way since the Founding Fathers signed the Declaration of Independence, and I applaud the CHS for capturing the pivotal moments of this journey in its "Documents of Freedom" and "Free to Vote" exhibitions.

By consistently demonstrating its commitment to historical accuracy and preservation, the Chicago Historical Society has earned its place atop the pillar of Chicago's treasures. Its commitment to this cause makes it the perfect backdrop for a celebration of our nation's history on Independence Day.

We make the Fourth of July as the beginning of a revolution to secure those unalienable rights from tyranny, but the struggle began long before that date and would continue to be defended by Americans long afterward. Guided by courage, faith, respect

for human dignity, and love of freedom, our forefathers fought valiantly to protect our ideals and liberties. In the two and a quarter centuries that have since passed, America has seen the highest peaks and preserved through some difficult times while the values that gave birth to our country have endured.

These values that we hold so dear are preserved for eternity here at the Chicago Historical Society. And as the Historical Society has earned its place as an integral element of Chicago's museum community, the 4th of July celebration has become ingrained in Lincoln Park's culture, and holds a permanent place on the community calendar. Men and women who grew up with their parents here on the 4th of July, now bring their children along with them. And so, these values and traditions will continue to be passed on to future generations.

Mr. Speaker, I applaud the leadership of Lonnie Bunch, Hill Hammock, and the other leaders of the Chicago Historical Society on another fantastic 4th of July celebration. I hope that the Historical Society will continue to enrich our lives and educate Chicagoans for many, many more years.

#### A TRIBUTE TO THE PENNSYLVANIA STATE UNIVERSITY ON ITS SESQUICENTENNIAL

**HON. FRANK R. WOLF**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 7, 2004*

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to rise today in support of H. Res. 703, a resolution offered by my colleague Representative JOHN PETERSON, congratulating my alma mater, The Pennsylvania State University, on 150 years of service and commending Pennsylvania's designation of the university as Pennsylvania's sole land-grant institution.

As a native Pennsylvanian, I was proud to attend Penn State and earn my undergraduate there in 1961. I also met someone there who would become the most important person in my life—a fellow Penn State student named Carolyn Stover who accepted my proposal to be my wife.

We have many fond memories of our time together at Penn State, strolling together past Old Main, and our dates to the Creamery, enjoying the best ice cream in the world—bar none.

Mr. Speaker, you may not know the tradition of the Creamery. It all started in 1892, when Penn State became the first American institution of higher education to establish collegiate-level instruction in ice cream manufacture, a program that has helped make the university an internationally recognized center for research in frozen confections.

Penn State without question has had an outstanding 150 years as one of the finest land grant institutions in the Nation. Its list of achievements is long and impressive. It was the first institution of higher education in the country to offer undergraduate degrees in industrial engineering, fuel science, and turf grass science. Its strong and varied undergraduate program draws students from across the country and the world.